For item-wise trade figures, DGCI&S Publication titled Foreign Trade Statistics of India, March, 1995 and 1996, available in the Parliament Library may be consulted.

(c) to (f). Infrastructural deficiences like narrow roads, lack of parking space, shortage of warehousing facilities etc. are resulting in congestion and delays at the Petropole Land Customs Station (LCS). Government have approved a few projects for improving infrastructural facilities at the LCS, which include construction of warehousing facilities at Petropole LCS, construction of a four lane by-pass at Haridaspur International Check Post, development of a truck terminus at Bongaon, strengthening and widening of the approach road, widening of stretches of NH 35 etc.

The road at Changrabandha, in Coochabehar District requires repairs but trade is continuing through this road.

Smuggling of Rice

5730. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of rice in a large scale from Assam to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected so far, and

(c) the action taken to stop such smuggling activities ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No such incident has been reported to the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Anti-smuggling agencies are alert to detect and prevent all smuggling including smuggling of rice from Assam to Bangladesh.

World Bank Assisted Projects in Orissa

5731. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects working in Orissa with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the Orissa Government to set up some other projects with the assistance of World Bank;

(c) if so, the number of projects pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(d) the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are eight state/multistate on-going projects being implemented with World Bank assistance in the State of Orissa. Besides these eight projects, there are several central sector projects being implemented across the country, including the state of Orissa.

(b) to (d). There are two multistate projects which are already under consideration of World Bank for possible assistance. These are the State health Systems and State Roads Project. World Bank is carrying out the appraisal of both the projects in a timely manner.

Cotton Ginning and Pressing Mills

5732. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to create funds for modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing mills;

(b) if so, the details of the funds earmarked for this purpose during the current financial year and during the last three years ?

(c) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the old ginning and pressing mills in order to improve the quality of cotton fibre and also to avoid fibre loss in outdated ginning machine; and

(d) the position of Indian cotton fibre in the International market alongwith the details of export of cotton fibre during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) The Cotton Corporation of India pays financial incentives to the Ginning and Pressing Factories for improving the general Standards of ginning, processing and gradation of cotton with the objective to control contamination in cotton.

(d) Because of the wide range in quality from non-spinnable cotton like Assam Comilla to extra fine cottons like DCH-32 and suvin capable of spinning 80s to 120s counts, India cotton is well known in the International market. The details of export of cotton during the last 3 years are as under :

Year	Export	
	Qt. Reqd.	Shipped (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)
1992-93	17.855	13.766
1993-94	5.695	3.90
1994-95	1.856	1.08

Investment in Kenya and Tanzania

5733. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indian companies have made investments and set up their units in Kenya and Tanzania; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas in which Indian companies have made investment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government approval has been granted to Indian companies to invest in overseas joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in Kenya and Tanzania for manufacturing of paper, auto parts, cables, chemicals, pharmaceutical formulations, cotton ginning etc. and in the field of trading insurance, promotion of tourism etc.

Performance of Banks in Ladakh

5734. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of nationalised banks functioning in the Ladakh region in Jammu and Kashmir location-wise;

(b) the total amount stands deposited by local residents in each of the banks separately, as on March 31, 1996;

(c) the total amount advanced to the local residents during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, Bank-wise;

(d) whether the advances made by the banks commensurate with the standard ratio fixed for making advances; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) State Bank of India, lead bank of the District Ladakh have reported that there are 13 branches of commercial banks operating in Leh. State Bank of India has four branches and Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. nine branches.

(b) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demand of Tender Coconut Water in International Market

5735. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand for tender coconut water in the international market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The Tender Coconut Water in small quantity is traded in the International market.

(b) The Coconut Development Board has initiated a project for preservation and packing of tender coconut water through the Defence production Research Laboratory, Mysore and the possibility of exporting it will be explored after perfecting the technology. Some steps taken by Government to enhance the export of tender coconut water include :

(i) Stepped up outlay in the Eighth Plan for both Central Sector and Centrally sponsored project for integrated development of coconut industry;

(ii) Enhancing coconut production and productivity by making available quality planting material, encouraging expansion of cropped area, undertaking rejuvenation, disease management and extension activities.

Occupational Health Assistance

5736. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6121 on May 18, 1995 and to state :

(a) whether the information have since been collected so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited, 94 persons were appointed as Occupational Health Assistants (Trainees) in South Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited in 1993-94. No such appointments were made either in the previous year or the subsequent year. These appointments were for meeting an *ad-hoc* need and, as such, no qualifications stood prescribed nor was any formal procedure adopted therefor. As stipendiary trainees, these appointments were not covered by the National Coal Wage Agreement.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Spices

5737. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different kind of spices exported at present;

(b) the annual export target set for each of the spices for Eighth Plan and actual achievements made thereunder so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and export of spices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The major items/groups of spices exported include (i) Pepper; (ii) Cardamom (Small); (iii) Cardamom (Large); (iv) Chillies;